Numb. LXXII.

The GUARDIAN.

——In vitium Libertas excidit, & vim Dignam Lege regi—— Hor.

Wednesday, June 3. 1713.

OXFORD is a Place which I am more inquisitive about, than even that of my Nativity; and when I have an Account of any sprightly Saying, or rising Genius from thence, it brings my own youthful Days into my Mind, and throws me Forty Years back into Life. It is for this Reason, that I have thought my self a little neglected of late by *Jack Lizard*; from whom I used to hear at least once a Week. The last Post brought me his Excuse, which is, that he hath been wholly taken up in preparing some Exercises for the Theatre. He tells me likewise, that the Talk there is about a *Publick ACT*, and that the gay part of the University have great Expectation of a *Terræ-filius*, who is to lash and sting all the World in a Satyrical Speech. Against the great Licence, which hath heretofore been taken in these Libels, he expresses himself with such Humanity, as is very unusual in a young Person, and ought to be cherished and admired. For my own part, I so far agree with him, that, if the University permits a thing, which I think much better let alone; I hope those, whose Duty it is to appoint a proper Person for that Office, will take care that he utter nothing unbecoming a Gentleman, a Scholar, and a Christian. Moreover, I would have them consider that their Learned Body hath already Enemies enough, who are prepared to aggravate all irreverent Insinuations, and to interpret all oblique Indecencies, who will triumph in such a Victory, and bid the University thank her self for the Consequences.

In my Time I remember the *Terræ-filius* contented himself with being bitter upon the Pope, or chastizing the *Turk*; and raised a serious and manly Mirth, and adapted to the Dignity of his Auditory, by exposing the false Reasoning of the Heretick, or ridiculing the clumsie Pretenders to Genius and Politeness. In the jovial Reign of King *Charles* the Second, wherein never did more Wit or more Ribaldry abound, the Fashion of being arch upon all that was Grave, and waggish upon the Ladies, crept into our Seats of Learning upon these Occasions. This was managed grossly and awkwardly enough, in a Place where the general Plainness and Simplicity of Manners could ill bear the Mention of such Crimes, as in Courts and great Cities are called by the specious Names of Air and Gallantry. It is to me amazing, that ever any Man bred up in the Knowledge of Virtue and Humanity, should so far cast off all Shame and Tenderness, as to stand up in the Face of Thousands, and utter such Contumelies as I have read and heard of. Let such an one know that he is making Fools merry, and wise Men sick; and that in the Eye of considering Persons, he hath less Compunction than the common Hangman, and less Shame than a Prostitute.

Infamy is so cutting an Evil, that most Persons, who have any Elevation of Soul, think it worse than Death. Those, who have it not in their Power to revenge it, often pine away in Anguish, and loath their Being; and those who *have*, enjoy no Rest till they have Vengeance. I shall therefore make it the Business of this Paper, to show how base and ungenerous it is to traduce the Women, and how dangerous to expose Men of Learning and Character, who have generally been the Subjects of these Invectives.

It hath been often said, that Women seem formed to soften the boisterous Passions, and sooth the Cares and Anxieties to which Men are exposed in the many Perplexities of Life. That having weaker Bodies, and less Strength of Mind than Man, Nature hath poured out her Charms upon them, and given them such Tenderness of Heart, that the most delicate Delight we receive from them, is in thinking them entirely ours, and under our Protection. Accordingly we find, that all Nations have paid a decent Homage to this weaker and lovelier part of the Rational Creation, in proportion to their Removal from Savageness and Barbarism. Chastity and Truth are the only due Returns that they can make for this generous Disposition in the nobler Sex. For Beauty is so far from satisfying us of it self, that whenever we think that it is communicated to others, we behold it with Regret and Disdain. Whoever therefore robs a Woman of her Reputation, despoils a poor defenceless Creature of all that makes her valuable, turns her Beauty into Loathsomness, and leaves her friendless, abandoned, and undone. There are many Tempers so soft, that the least Calumny gives them Pains

(Price Two Pence.)

Pains they are not able to bear: They give themſelves up to ſtrange Fears, gloomy Reflections, and deep Melancholy. How ſavage muſt he be, who can ſacrifice the Quiet of ſuch a Mind to a tranſient Burſt of Mirth! Let him who wantonly ſports away the Peace of a poor Lady, conſider what Diſcord he ſows in Families; how often he wrings the Heart of an hoary Parent; how often he rouſes the Fury of a jealous Husband; how he extorts from the abuſed Woman Curſes, perhaps not unheard, and poured out in the Bitterneſs of her Soul! What Weapons hath ſhe wherewith to repel ſuch an Outrage! How ſhall ſhe oppoſe her Softneſs and Imbecility to the hardened Forehead of a Coward, who hath trampled upon Weakneſs that could not reſiſt him? to a Buffoon, who hath ſlandered Innocence to raiſe the Laughter of Fools; who hath *ſcattered Firebrands, Arrows, and Death*, and ſaid, *am I not in Sport?*

Irreverent Reflections upon Men of Learning and Note, if their Character be Sacred, do great Diſſervice to Religion, and betray a vile Mind in the Author. I have therefore always thought, with Indignation, upon that *Accuſer of the Brethren*, the famous Antiquary, whoſe Employment it was, for ſeveral Years, to rake up all the ill natured Stories that had ever been faſtened upon celebrated Men, and tranſmit them to Poſterity with cruel Induſtry, and malicious Joy. Though the good Men, ill uſed, may, out of a Meek and Chriſtian Diſpoſition, ſo far ſubdue their natural Reſentment, as to neglect and forgive; yet the Inventers of ſuch Calumnies will find generous Perſons, whoſe Bravery of Mind makes them think themſelves proper Inſtruments to chaſtiſe ſuch Inſolence. And I have, in my time, more than once, known the Diſcipline of the Blanket adminiſter'd to the Offenders, and all their Slanders anſwered by that kind of Syllogiſm which the ancient *Romans* called the *Argumentum Bacillinum*.

I have leſs Compaſſion for Men of ſprightly Parts and Genius, whoſe Characters are played upon, becauſe they have it in their Power to revenge themſelves tenfold. But I think of all the Claſſes of Mankind, they are the moſt pardonable if they pay the Slanderer in his own Coyn. For, their Names being already blazed abroad in the World, the leaſt Blot thrown upon them is diſplayed far and wide; and they have this ſad Privilege above the Men in Obſcurity, that the Diſhonour travels as far as their Fame. To be even therefore with their Enemy, they are but too apt to diffuſe his Infamy as far as their own Reputation; and perhaps triumph in Secret, that they have it in their Power to make his Name the Scoff and Deriſion of After-Ages. This, I ſay, they are too apt to do. For ſometimes they reſent the expoſing of their little Affectations or Slips in writing, as much as Wounds upon their Honour. The firſt are Trifles they ſhould laugh away, but the latter deſerves their utmoſt Severity.

I muſt confeſs a Warmth againſt the Buffooneries mentioned in the beginning of this Paper, as they have ſo many Circumſtances to aggravate their Guilt. A Licence for a Man to ſtand up in the Schools of the Prophets, in a grave decent Habit, and audaciouſly vent his Ooloquies againſt the Doctors of our Church, and Directors of our young Nobility, Gentry, and Clergy, in their hearing and before their Eyes; to throw Calumnies upon poor defenceleſs Women, and offend their Ears with nauſeous Ribaldry, and name their Names at length in a publick Theatre, when a Queen is upon the Throne: Such a Licence as this never yet gained Ground in our Play-houſes, and, I hope, will not need a Law to forbid it. Were I to adviſe in this Matter, I ſhould repreſent to the Orator how noble a Field there lay before him for Panegyric; what an happy Opportunity he had of doing Juſtice to the Great Men, who once were of that famous Body, or now ſhine forth in it; nor ſhould I neglect to inſinuate the Advantages he might propoſe by gaining their Friendſhip, whoſe Worth, by a contrary Treatment, he will be imagined either not to know, or to envy. This might reſcue the Name from Scandal; and if, as it ought, this Performance turned ſolely upon Matters of Wit and Learning, it might have the Honour of being one of the firſt Productions of the magnificent Printing-houſe, juſt erected at *Oxford*.

This Paper is written with a Deſign to make my Journey to *Oxford* agreeable to me, where I deſign to be at the Publick *Act*. If my Advice is neglected, I ſhall not ſcruple to inſert in the GUARDIAN whatever the Men of Letters and Genius tranſmit to me, in their own Vindication; and I hereby promiſe that I my ſelf will draw my Pen in Defence of all injured Women.

ERRATA in the Guardian *of the 1ſt Inſtant.*

Col. 2. l. 11. *for* different *r.* differently. Col. 3. l. 2. *for* States *r.* Eſtates. Col. 4. l. 17. *for* Devotion *r.* Duration. Ibid. *for* extended *r.* coextended.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

AT the Requeſt of ſeveral Perſons of Quality, who have appointed to meet this Evening at 6 of the Clock at the Famous WATER THEATRE of the late ingenious Mr. Winſtanly, it will be up again, and the curious Barrel will be turned into a Tavern with Water playing out of the top in the Shape of a Sun for a Sign; there will be preſented to the Spectators 6 ſeveral Sorts of Wines with Spaw Water, all coming out of the Barrel, and Biſkets, and when the Head is in the Pully, Claret, pale Ale, and Stout will be drawn out of ſeveral Cocks, and Water playing up: with ſeveral Curioſities added this Night, there is a deſcending Venus with a Heart in her Hand which burns and ſmoaks in the Water, a flying Dragon, whoſe Mouth throws out Fire, Water and Perfumes all together before a great Tempeſt of Thunder and Lightning, with Fire mingling with many Cascades of Water. Boxes this Night 3s. Pit 2s. 6d. Firſt Gallery 2s. Upper Gallery 6d. This is at the lower End of Piccadilly towards Hide Park, and is ſhown for the Benefit of his Widow.

Juſt Publiſhed,

A Demonſtration of the Exiſtence, Wiſdom and Omnipotence of God, drawn from the Knowledge of Nature, particularly of Man, and fitted to the meaneſt Capacity. By the Archbiſhop of Cambray, Author of Telemachus; and tranſlated from the French, by the ſame Hand that Engliſh'd that excellent Piece. Sold by W. Taylor and J. Baker in Pater-Noſter-Row, J. Round in Exchange Alley in Cornhil, W. Brandard J. Kent at the Temple-Gate in Fleet-ſtreet; where may be had the Lives of the Duke of Marlborough and Prince Eugene, with both their Effigies, pr. 4s.

The famous Spaniſh Blacking for Gentlemens Shoes that ever was invented or uſed; it making them always look like new, never daubs the Hands in putting on; or ſoils the Stockings in Wearing; neither has it the ordinary Gloſs of German Balls, or the intolerable noiſom Stink of Shoe, but is of an agreeable Scent. It indeed makes the Shoes look extreamly neat, and mightily preſerves the Leather: All that uſe it admire it, and thoſe that once try it will never uſe any thing elſe. Sold for 1s. 6d. the Pot with Directions, (which will laſt 3 or 4 Months) only at Mr. John Hannam's, a Toyſhop at the Three Angels near Fullers-lane, in Cheapſide.

LONDON: Printed for *J. Tonſon* in the *Strand*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertiſements are taken in. 1713.